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A
NEW DISCOVERIE
OF AN
Old Traveller

Lately Arrived from

P O R T - D U L ,

Shewing the Manner of the Country, Fa-
shions of the People, and their Laws.

And withal giving an account of the Shifts
and Tricks he was Forced to use for
the time of his Continuance there.

Licenced, Rog. L'estrange

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*A new Discovery of an Old Traveller lately
Arrived from* **PORT-DUL.**

Country-men, I do not here expose to your view, a Relation like that of the Isle of *Pynes* or *O-Brazile*, the affects only of a Witty Author to supply the Indigency of his Pocket (or of a good invention) nor amuze you with delusions and fictions, but entertain you with real truths. (And if I do err) it shall be no more then, *ust* to maintain the right and Priveledg of a Travellor.

This antient Colony called *PORT-DUL*, after 8. Months too and fro with Variety of Weather which is usual at Sea, we arived at. But because I will not be tedious in my discourse, I shall omit those several occasions that made me undertake this Long Voyage and melancholly retirement.

When we first made this Country, it appeared with all the promising content imaginable, which fed our hopes that we might reap what men do when they go to seek their Fortunes.

So after coming to an Anchor, we went a Shore where we were very civilly received by the Mr. *Degard* with a more then usual Complement, which made me have a very high esteem of my new Habitation, and being come to the Principal Town after having paid the duties and Customs of the Place, we went to our Inn, where the first night I did not so well observe the Carriage and deportment of the People, nor some time after, so long as my money lasted, but that being gone, and vastly distant from any Friend (not hearing from any for some Moneths, I found the sad effects of miserable want) but after a long encounter with Pernitious Penury, with some little

help I began to get the upper hand of him, and having gain'd a little breath, consulted how to defend my self against him for the future, which by care, and having begot some handsome acquaintance in the Country, where I was indifferently beloved, (I pretty well made good) for our Vessel being of a great burthen, and the Waters being low, and the Winds cross and tempestuous, we could by no means depart, whereas lesser could, nor did we for two years and upwards, so that I would advise those that intend this Voyage, to provide themselves with small Bottoms for fear they meet with our Fortune.

Now having leasure enough the time of my residing here, to observe the Country, I think it not amiss to give some account of it.

The Climate is very temperate, not so hot in Summer nor cold in Winter as in England, but the Air is not so serene and sweet by far, there many times arising unsavory smells and fents which are displeasing and offensive.

The Country is naturally Barren, and affords little or nothing fit for the Life of man, but however that want is well supplied by the care and management of the Commissary General, and a Carravan of provisions brought in constantly by an Officer called the running Post (not that he is so called from the swiftness of his motion, but the constancy) arriving daily with supplies from a great Prince (whose Country succours this) for which they only do Homage, a very easy acknowledgment, for so vast a benefit. But the Government of these princes changing yearly, occasions many times great straits amongst the people, for it is at the discretion of this great potentate, whether he will relieve them or not (though that was never yet known) but sometimes it happens they do it very sparingly, as in the year 1673. at my arrival there, the then prince, for what reason whether the People were remiss in their observance, or had neglected their respects to his Officers of state, I cannot tell, but I do assure you their wants were at that degree, they very much dreaded a Famine; but the wiser imputed it as being more probable to his being a Foreigner, but from what part of the World he came, I could never

never certainly learn, yet the People did agree in general, that in person and appearance he was much like those people that inhabit in and about Dukes place *London*, however he was a good Magistrate, and I have heard him highly commended for his eloquence, but above all for his justice, in so much that it became a proverb amongst them (he had been weighed in the Ballance.)

But towards the latter end of 71. the Cloud was dissipated by that Bright Sun of Comfort, in the person of that worthy Senator, whose Honour and mind was equal to his imploy, who caused such an alteration in the peoples Faces, that those that had been six moneths absent, were at first sight affraid the Country had been surprized by the Dutch, they were all grown such brave chusing Fellows.

But as this *Worthies* time of governing expired, how the poor peoples fears increased (not knowing) for it was possible though not probable, it might fall upon a stranger again. For though they rule well, they do not feed well, which does not at all agree with these peoples Constitutions, for though the Air be not so clear as in other places, it generally procures good Stomachs.

But that soon vanish'd when they understood it continued in a person whose endowments both of Body and Mind were not inferiour to the former, whose steps is hoped will be truly trod by their successors, for though they cannot outdo them, yet they may equal them, and purchase to themselves lasting Honour.

The Commodities of this Country are very inconsiderable, and not worth fetching, the Chief being Iron, Wood, Stone, and on the tops of the Mountains excellent fine Lead, but the danger and charge in getting it, makes them altogether desist.

That which seemed a wonder to me, was, that there being little or no rain, the Country was so well watred, all the time of my being there, not meeting with six showers, and those so small, that if I had been at the further part of the Colony, I might have got home before I had been wet to the skin.

The Snow never falls here, for that always happening with a
North

North-East Wind, the Mountains are so ranged on that side the Country, Canopy-like (that it falls quite over) which makes, it very delightful to the beholder.

Another thing I greatly admired at, was to find so many Ingenious men and excellent artists (where there was so little encouragement for industry and parts for men seldom or never get Estates there, the only trades I found thrive being Cobblers and Botchers, the reason supposed, is because they do not much follow the fashions, nor make new Clothes.

The People in general are of a good disposition, and extremely civil to strangers, but if you come to inhabit there, they are more churlish till they are better acquainted with you, for they imagine you come to eat the Bred out of their mouths.

The men are of a comely Proportion and Behaviour, and many of them well educated.

The Women for the most part old or ugly, which is the reason so many men return home contrary to their inclinations, virtuous, but they make generally good Nurses, and are so obliging to their Charge, that I have known the poor patient when recovered (though to an old Woman, hath bestowed part of his restored nature upon her in requital) notwithstanding the Laws of this Country are as severe against offenders of this kind, as in *New-England*, yet the Prudence of the Magistrates is such, considering that Funerals more familiarly happen then Christenings and Marriages, connive at it not only for the peopling their Country, but their own conveniency.

Their Laws are excellently good and well managed, the People being kept in very great order, and observance of their superiours, and though their Laws are strict, I never knew or heard that any offender was punished with Death, for if any demean themselves there, at the rate of a criminal, they banish them to a place called *Wentage* to the Northward of this Colony, being a peculier reception for Malefactors, and next step to *Golgotha*, where if they escape with Life, their Reputation is utterly

utterly lost, it being equally a Scandal there as Newgate here.

The Government I cannot properly call Monarchical, though there is a superiour Magistrate who is called the Chief Prefence, who by his own Authority doth order and dispose at discretion, as to the care and safety of the Country, relating to Military matters. yet as to the Civil concerns there is joyned with him nine others, called Representatives, who are chosen by the People, and share in the government with him, but these are not lasting, and once in a certain time they choose new ones, which occasions great Mirth and Feasting, the time of choosing being not only known to the Natives who make extraordinary preparations, but to the parts adjacent, whose Principal inhabitants resort thither as to a Wake or Fair, the day being come, the greatest part of it is spent in choosing their Representatives, which being done, (for the great Ceremony is performed by Torch Light) orders are given forthwith to the Commissary General, the two Mr. *De Gards* and others to command the Souldiers to their Armes, which being done, they are ranged on both sides the Streets from the Commissary Generals Quarters to the publick Hall or Place of Justice, where all controversies and differences betwixt man and man are decided, and all other Courts relating to the People are kept (which is a most stately building and spacious, but I think it somewhat less then that at *Westminster*;) things being thus prepared, they proceed by the light of vast numbers of Torches (which is thus) first the Servants of the Representatives, next the Domesticks of the chief Prefence, next publick Officers, then the Representatives and chief Prefence, and after him Gentlemen and Ladies, who being orderly set, all other persons according to their degrees are placed, where they are entertained with a very costly supper, after which a most Magnificent Banquet with great plenty of all things, the complement over, the chief Prefence and Representatives repair home. The meaner sort either at the Conduits which run all that Evening with wine, or at some other publique place on purpose prepared for them, are drinking

ing their Superiours Healths, for no man unless he will himself goes without his Belly full of Wine that Night, and his head too for the most part, therefore you must have a care you are not late out of your Lodging, for the chief Presence and Representatives being gone, and the Torches extinguished, especially if it happen to be a dark Night, else you may chance to break your Face by stumbling over one of these devout Bacchunaleans.

This being over, the next Morning great care is taken to see all things in order, and every man commanded to his proper Business.

Let this account at present suffice, 'tis designed in a short time to give a fuller Relation.

In the mean while, for all such as are desirous to go this Voyage, there shall be offices erected to give satisfaction to those who come of which you may expect an Information very speedily in *P. a. Robins late liget. er.*

FINIS.
